

[C. MURRAY]

Lament in Three Women's Voices

and a chorus

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This is a poetry lament for voices but it can be adapted to sound. It is based in the idea of the female chorus which is akin to the Greek chorus in literature, or in the women's chorus of T.S Eliot's 'Murder in the Cathedral.' The pieces are written for each in Part one and slightly adapted and changed through the next two parts, so that the voices are always speaking or trailing off. The core piece is one poem 'Lament' but adapted and changed to suit the unidentified women's voices. The poem itself is added as a coda.

Lament

Voice 1

'O love alone /

Lonely/

My child /

Small one/

I cannot see where you lie/

I awaken weeping/

Small love/

I cannot see where you lay

Wrapped safely into my side /

I awaken dreaming of you /

My distant/

* My distant/

Voice 2 begins her part , as Voice 1 trails off at 'my distant'

I cannot touch /

***Voice 1 is silent.**

Lament

Voice 2

'I awaken dreaming/

I cannot feel

where you lay small child /

mine/

(pause)

Love alone /

lonely/

miserable am I /

lost in a world of shades without your sweet face /

miserable I am /

without your sweet face/

I hide away /

Voice 2 fades to silence.

Lament

Enter Voice 3.

Voice 3

'I cannot touch /

I awaken weeping/

Miserable am I /

I cannot find the cloths in which you lay

Wrapped into my side/

Lament

Voice 1 and Voice 3

‘Alone lonely/

O love alone/

My child/

Small one/

I awaken weeping weeping/

(pause)

I cannot feel where you lie/

My distant/

I cannot touch/

these cloths in which you lay wrapped into my side/

Voice 1 and three fade to silence

Lament

Voices 1, 2 and 3 (together)

'I cannot touch/

The cloths/

The veil is between you and I/

(pause)

Alone lonely/

O Love/

Without your small body wrapped into my side/

I cannot feel where you lie/

Sleep now/

I dream of the veils/

That are between me and your small face/

My Distant/

My distant/

I cannot touch /

Lament

Lament text in full.

O love alone lonely-

Miserable am I
my child , my small one
I cannot see where you lie
I awaken weeping
Small love
I cannot feel where you lay
Wrapped into my side
I awaken dreaming of your small form
My distant-
I cannot touch

I awaken dreaming of your forgotten face

I cannot feel where you lie
Small child wrapped into my side
I love, alone, Lonely
Miserable am I
Lost in a world of shades
O miserable am I ..."

I cannot touch,
I awaken dreaming –

O miserable am I,
O Love, alone
I awaken dreaming
I cannot touch the cloths, the veils.

O Love alone lonely
Miserable, miserable
Children, small ones
I cannot feel where you lay..."